

Remarks:

A Notice of Allowance has been received in the above-identified application and the Issue Fee paid on June 18, 2004.

Applicants wish to amend the title of the invention to be more descriptive of the invention. Claim 1 does not require that the optical fiber be hydrogen resistant. Also, having "deuterated glass preform" in the title could imply that the entire preform is necessarily deuterated, which is not required by Claim 1.

The proposed amendment does not amend the claims and does not require an additional search or examination. The Examiner has indicated that the claims are patentable.

The proposed amendment was not presented earlier because Applicants are responding to the Examiner's Amendment which accompanied the Notice of Allowance mailed on April 23, 2004 and to the Response to Rule 312 Communication mailed on August 24, 2004.

Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing out that the proper Group Art Unit is 1731. This Amendment has been corrected to reflect the proper Group Art Unit. Applicants mistakenly used the previous Group Art Unit identified on the Official Filing Receipt, a copy of which is attached, and which was later changed to Group Art Unit 1731 during prosecution.

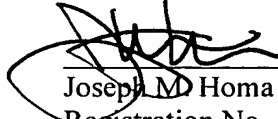
Applicants hereby authorize the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Joseph M. Homa at (607) 974-9061.

Respectfully submitted,

CORNING INCORPORATED

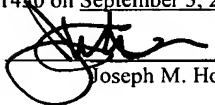
Date: September 3, 2004



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R.

§ 1.8: I hereby certify that this paper and any papers referred to herein are being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service, as first class mail, postage prepaid, addressed to Mail Stop Issue Fee, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on September 3, 2004.



Joseph M. Homa/Signature